1.   (currently amended) A method for distributing software programs

comprising:

transmitting a plurality of software programs from a networked server

computer to a remote software dispensing device;

storing said plurality of software programs on said software dispensing

device;

in response to a user request, displaying a directory of said plurality of

software programs on said software dispensing device;

in response to a software selection, emulating, on said software

dispensing device, a portable computer system executing said selected software

program, wherein a user can manipulate said selected software program;

in response to a said software selection by a user, accepting payment

from said user for a selected software program; and

in response to said payment, communicating an instantiation of said

selected software program from said software dispensing device to a portable

computer system of said user.

2.   (cancelled) A method as described in Claim 1 further comprising:

in response to said software selection, emulating, on said software dispensing

device, a portable computer system executing said selected software program.

3.   (original) A method as described in Claim 1 wherein said software

dispensing device is a computer system comprising:

    a processor coupled to a bus;

    a memory coupled to said bus;

    a display screen coupled to said bus; and

    a communication unit coupled to said bus and for communicating with a

portable computer system of said user.

4.   (original) A method as described in Claim 1 wherein said directory

comprises a name, description and price for each of said plurality of software

programs.

5.   (original) A method as described in Claim 1 wherein said transferring is

performed wirelessly.

6.   (original) A method as described in Claim 5 wherein said transferring is

performed using Bluetooth communication.

7.   (original) A method as described in Claim 5 wherein said transferring is

performed using infrared communication.

8.   (original) A method as described in Claim 1 wherein said portable computer system of said user is a personal digital assistant (PDA).

9.   (original) A method as described in Claim 1 further comprising backing up information from said portable computer system of said user onto said software dispensing device.

10.   (original) A method as described in Claim 9 further comprising restoring said information from said software dispensing device onto a replacement portable computer system of said user.

11.   (original) A method as described in Claim 1 further comprising archiving inactive software programs from said portable computer system of said user onto said software dispensing device.

12.   (currently amended) A method for distributing software programs comprising:

transmitting a plurality of software programs from a networked server computer to a remote software dispensing kiosk;

storing said plurality of software programs on said software dispensing kiosk;

in response to a user request, displaying a directory of said plurality of software programs on said software dispensing kiosk;

in response to a software selection, emulating, on said software dispensing device, a portable computer system executing said selected software program, wherein a user can manipulate said selected software program;

in response to a software selection by a user, accepting payment from said user for a selected software program; and

in response to said payment, transferring an instantiation of said selected software program to a hand held computer system of said user.

13.   (cancelled) A method as described in Claim 12 further comprising:

in response to said software selection, emulating, on said software dispensing kiosk, a hand held computer system executing said selected software program.

14.   (original) A method as described in Claim 12 wherein said software dispensing kiosk is a computer system comprising:

a processor coupled to a bus;

a memory coupled to said bus;

a display screen coupled to said bus; and

a communication unit coupled to said bus and for communicating with said hand held computer system of said user.

15.   (original) A method as described in Claim 12 wherein said directory comprises a name, description and price for each of said plurality of software programs.

16.   (original) A method as described in Claim 12 wherein said transferring is performed wirelessly.

17.   (original) A method as described in Claim 16 wherein said transferring is performed using Bluetooth communication.

18.   (original) A method as described in Claim 16 wherein said transferring is performed using infrared communication.

19.   (original) A method as described in Claim 12 wherein said hand held computer system of said user is a personal digital assistant (PDA).

20.   (original) A method as described in Claim 12 further comprising backing up information from said hand held computer system of said user onto said software dispensing kiosk.

21.   (original) A method as described in Claim 20 further comprising restoring said information from said software dispensing kiosk onto a replacement hand held computer system of said user.

22.   (original) A method as described in Claim 12 further comprising archiving inactive software programs from said hand held computer system of said user onto said software dispensing kiosk.

23.   (currently amended) A network system for distributing software programs comprising:

        a networked server for receiving and storing software programs from software developers;

        a remotely located software dispensing kiosk networked with said server and for receiving and storing software programs from said networked server;

        in response to a user request, said software dispensing kiosk for displaying a directory of said software programs;

        in response to a software selection, emulating, on said software dispensing device, a portable computer system executing said selected software program, wherein a user can manipulate said selected software program;

        in response to a software selection by a user, said software dispensing kiosk also for accepting payment from said user for a selected software program; and

in response to said payment, said software dispensing kiosk for

communicating an instantiation of said selected software program to a portable

computer system of said user.

24.   (cancelled)) A network system as described in Claim 23 wherein, in

response to said software selection, said software dispensing kiosk also for

emulating a portable computer system executing said selected software program.

25.   (original) A network system as described in Claim 23 wherein said

software dispensing kiosk comprises:

    a processor coupled to a bus;

    a memory coupled to said bus;

    a display screen coupled to said bus; and

    a communication unit coupled to said bus and for communicating with said

portable computer system of said user.

26.   (original) A network system as described in Claim 23 wherein said

directory comprises a name, description and price for each of said software

programs offered by said software dispensing kiosk.

27.   (original) A network system as described in Claim 23 wherein said

portable computer system of said user is a personal digital assistant (PDA).

28.   (original) A network system as described in Claim 23 wherein said software dispensing kiosk is also for backing up information from said portable computer system.

29.   (original) A network system as described in Claim 23 wherein said software dispensing kiosk is also for archiving inactive software programs from said portable computer system.